



**INQUIRIES**

If you want to know more about these statistics, ring Mr Godfrey Laurie on Canberra 526573 or our State office or write to Information Services, Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, DECEMBER 1976**

**MAIN FEATURES**

- In December 1976 there were 121 industrial disputes involving 24,400 workers and resulting in a loss of 62,300 working days.
- In the year 1976, 3,800,000 working days were lost, the second highest level recorded since 1929. (The highest number, 6,300,000, was recorded in 1974.)
- In 1976 Medibank stoppages in all States and Territories involved 1.6 million workers (73 per cent of total workers involved in the year) and resulted in a loss of 2.1 million working days (55 per cent of the total) and \$59 million in wages (52 per cent of the total).
- 2.2 million workers were involved in stoppages during 1976, the highest level recorded.
- Average days lost per worker involved in 1976 were 1.7, the lowest level since 1969.

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly bulletins *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau

publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

**TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA**

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	1.8	32,074.4
1973	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	3.3	45,206.5
1974	..	2,809	..	2,004.8	6,292.5	3.1	128,301.8
1975	..	2,432	..	1,398.0	3,509.9	2.5	95,760.7
1976 (d)	..	2,055	..	2,189.8	3,799.2	1.7	114,551.6
1975 -							
December	86	103	11.5	15.2	39.7	2.6	1,090.6
1976 -							
January	122	122	16.8	16.8	71.2	4.2	2,096.0
February	234	261	64.6	69.7	192.7	2.8	5,624.8
March	236	272	63.3	71.3	242.6	3.4	6,866.7
April	151	184	52.2	61.5	165.7	2.7	5,314.9
May	182	211	83.7	91.2	128.6	1.4	3,886.9
June (c)	164	187	398.5	400.9	573.0	1.4	16,763.2
July (c)	142	168	1,293.3	1,625.0	1,673.4	1.0	48,664.1
August	178	203	64.8	73.0	203.9	2.8	6,677.4
September	189	222	49.7	63.0	143.4	2.3	4,713.3
October (d)	174	206	45.2	56.4	182.5	3.2	6,265.6
November (d)	194	233	41.4	52.9	159.8	3.0	5,445.8
December (d)	89	121	16.3	24.4	62.3	2.6	2,233.0

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period - see paragraph 4, above. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures - see paragraph 4, above. (c) Includes Medibank stoppages. (d) Subject to revision.



TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; communication		Other industries (d)	All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment (c)	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services			Other
	Coal	Other							
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	221.3	2,010.3
1973	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	347.6	2,634.7
1974	163.0	146.5	2,850.8	756.7	1,188.7	111.1	516.2	559.4	6,292.5
1975	343.3	90.0	1,279.2	464.1	497.0	46.2	146.7	643.5	3,509.9
1976 (f)	159.1	215.0	775.0	856.5	535.8	37.1	388.0	832.6	3,799.2
1975 -									
December	1.5	2.1	9.8	20.5	1.7	1.4	2.0	0.7	39.7
1976 -									
January	0.9	20.3	5.6	29.9	10.3	0.1	1.4	2.5	71.2
February	13.1	19.8	45.8	55.7	28.3	4.2	3.3	22.6	192.7
March	10.7	6.8	36.5	54.8	32.2	0.5	18.5	82.7	242.6
April	6.0	37.1	32.5	11.4	25.6	1.2	8.2	43.8	165.7
May	3.6	13.7	13.6	13.7	17.5	3.1	50.7	12.7	128.6
June (e)	10.1	17.3	128.6	88.5	87.7	5.5	102.2	133.1	573.0
July (e)	30.6	30.4	366.5	355.3	223.9	14.0	183.2	469.6	1,673.4
August	54.6	4.0	64.3	33.3	19.6	2.6	6.3	19.5	203.9
September	10.6	26.6	27.2	36.6	28.6	2.1	4.6	7.2	143.4
October (f)	7.0	16.6	23.5	88.8	29.8	0.7	2.6	13.5	182.5
November (f)	8.0	9.5	20.9	70.0	21.7	1.5	7.0	21.1	159.8
December (f)	4.0	13.0	10.0	18.7	10.6	1.6	0.2	4.2	62.3

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification - see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) ASIC sub-divisions 29, 31, 32, 33. (d) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (e) Includes Medibank stoppages. (f) Subject to revision.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas	Aust. (b)
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1973	1,098.1	780.5	320.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1974	2,665.0	2,386.6	529.5	316.5	256.9	88.5	6,292.5
1975	1,477.8	1,221.7	473.3	127.6	100.7	40.6	3,509.9
1976 (d)	1,456.5	1,420.0	426.0	151.8	252.1	62.2	3,799.2
1975 -							
December	13.8	18.2	2.3	1.7	2.7	1.0	39.7
1976 -							
January	14.8	20.5	5.3	0.8	22.0	7.8	71.2
February	107.7	31.3	16.2	4.1	24.0	8.7	192.7
March	93.4	110.5	14.5	11.5	9.1	0.6	242.6
April	54.4	42.1	18.9	7.6	39.2	1.5	165.7
May	44.4	35.4	18.7	6.6	15.6	4.4	128.6
June (c)	91.4	443.9	20.2	4.6	11.5	0.5	573.0
July (c)	729.4	525.6	236.7	93.9	48.8	25.0	1,673.4
August	95.9	72.9	12.3	8.7	6.8	7.1	203.9
September	32.1	38.9	33.0	3.6	29.3	5.3	143.4
October (d)	76.5	52.5	28.0	5.8	15.7	..	182.5
November (d)	86.3	34.4	20.0	1.7	15.7	0.9	159.8
December (d)	30.2	12.1	2.1	2.8	14.4	0.4	62.3

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Medibank stoppages. (d) Subject to revision.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

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